

FACT SHEET

CONSOLIDATED EMISSIONS REPORTING RULE

TODAY'S ACTION

- In today's action, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to provide States with additional flexibility in the way they collect and report emissions data and with the frequency with which it is reported. The EPA is proposing to reduce the frequency for reporting some emissions data while providing flexibility for how data are supplied to EPA.
- The EPA is also proposing to allow State and local agencies the flexibility of continuing to report 3-year cycle inventories every 3 years or to break the reporting into thirds, with a third of the appropriate emissions being reported each year. The same option for reporting is being made available for some point sources.
- The EPA is also requiring State and local agencies to report area and mobile source emissions statewide. Statewide reporting of point source emissions has been an existing requirement for many years.
- Additionally, EPA is proposing to require State and local agencies to collect PM_{2.5} emissions data. PM_{2.5} precursors will also be collected and reported.
- The EPA is asking for comment on the advisability of requiring reporting of hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions.
- This action also redefines data submittal. Providing an agency chooses one of the optional formats, they can make their data available to EPA and EPA will enter it into the Federal data base.

BACKGROUND

- The purpose of this consolidated reporting rule is to simplify reporting, offer options for data collection and exchange, and unify reporting dates for various categories of inventories. Previous reporting requirements have, at times, forced reporting agencies into inefficient collecting and reporting activities. This consolidated rule provides options for collecting and reporting that allows an agency to match its normal activities with Federal reporting requirements. This action summarizes several emission inventory requirements (Statewide, Emission Statements, and 3-year Cycle Periodic Emission Inventory programs) and lists the applicable source size reporting thresholds. This action consolidates the numerous emission inventory reporting requirements found in various parts of the Clean Air Act.
- This action is being taken at the direct request of numerous State and local agencies.

Consolidation of reporting requirements will enable these agencies to better explain to program managers and the public the necessity for a consistent inventory program, increases the efficiency of the emission inventory program, and provides more consistent and uniform data. This action, (while including new requirements for PM_{2.5} and its precursors, new requirements for the reporting of emissions statewide and asking for comments regarding collecting air toxics emissions estimates), reduces the reporting requirements for other criteria pollutants. However, the net reporting burden on the States will increase as a result of this rule. If the air toxics emission reporting becomes a requirement, then there will be an additional increase in the reporting burden on the States and there will be an increase in industry's reporting burden.

HOW WILL THIS PROPOSAL AFFECT THE NATIONAL EMISSION INVENTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND THE QUALITY OF THE DATA?

- The information supplied by this streamlined emissions reporting requirement will increase the likelihood that a data base of known and consistent quality will be compiled and made available to the public and to policy makers.
- Clarifying and consolidating reporting requirements and providing options for complying will increase the efficiency with which State and local programs are able to operate.

WILL THERE BE COST SAVINGS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?

- This proposal will reduce the reporting burden on State and local governments by reducing the frequency of reporting for some pollutant categories. These savings will be more than offset by the need for new particulate information and the need for the Statewide reporting of area and mobile source emissions. These new data are necessary to support the criteria pollutant program. If the reporting burden for air toxics is included (the proposal asks for comments on air toxics reporting) then there will be an additional increase in costs to State and local governments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- Anyone with access to a computer and a modem may download the proposed rule directly through the World Wide Web at: (www.epa.gov/ttn/chief). For further information about the rule, contact Bill Kuykendal at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5372.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on many air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's homepage address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).